

REMARKS

By this Amendment, independent claim 28, which is generic to claims 1-6 and 25-26, has been added.

The Office Action includes an election of species requirement wherein the Office has divided the claims among four groups:

group (a) -- claims 1, 4 and 15-27, which Applicants understand to mean claims 1, 4 and 25-27 (and which was confirmed in a telephone communication from the Examiner on August 2, 2002);

group (b) -- claims 2, 3, 5 and 6;

group (c) -- claims 7-13; and

group (d) -- claims 14-24.

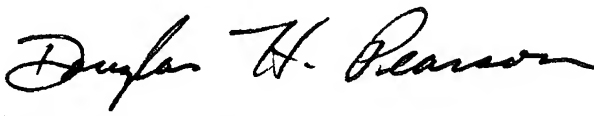
Applicants hereby elect group (a), claims 1, 4 and 25-27, with traverse. Moreover, claim 28, which is generic to claims 1-6 and 25-26 has been added herein, and examination of claim 28 along with claims 1, 4 and 25-27 is respectfully requested. Upon a finding that claim 28 is allowable, it is respectfully requested that claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 be rejoined and allowed with the application.

The election is made with traverse because it does not appear that examining all currently pending claims would pose an undue burden on the Examiner. In particular, upon review of the Office's groupings of claims, it appears that a search involving one species would substantially overlap searches involving the other species.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 

Douglas H. Pearson
Registration No. 47,851

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

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